

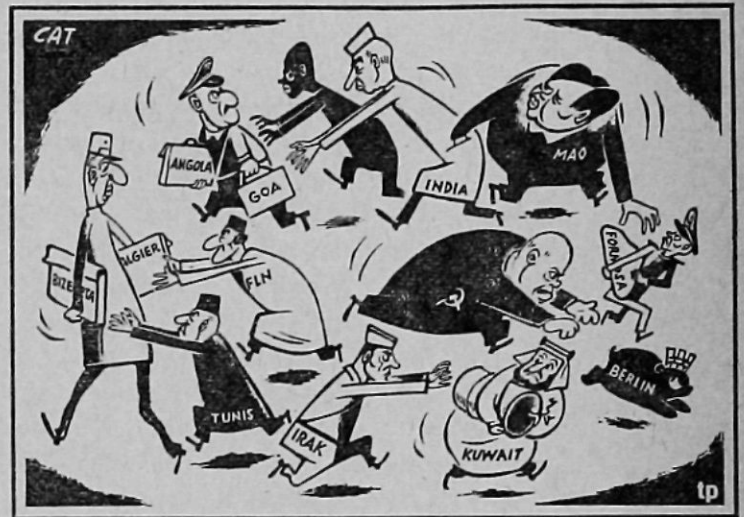
• Abroad •

West Berlin. Observers have been astonished that more than half of the new refugees from East Germany are under 25 years old. Questioning at the Marienfelde reception center indicates that these young people are not much concerned with politics. They have left the East, they say, because "life is dreary there," "the work is uninteresting," "there is no chance for advancement," "you are not allowed to do your job right" (as a young farmer commented, after explaining that he was forced to sell his pigs fifty pounds under proper market weight). Most add, in one way or another, that they didn't get enough free time for themselves—too many boring meetings and compulsory discussion classes, too much supervision. (They also realize the significance of the fact, little known outside Germany, that there are no laws or regulations hindering a West German from transferring residence—taking his family and all possessions along—to the East.)

Moscow. The increase of travel by foreign citizens in the Soviet Union, and by Soviet citizens abroad, has had an effect that is inevitable in countries with non-convertible, artificially over-valued money: the growth of black (i.e., free) market operations in foreign currencies. The scale, and the seriousness with which the regime regards the problem, are shown by the recent trial (admission by reserved ticket only) and *death sentence* (under a law passed subsequent to their arrest) of two "speculators," Messrs. Rokotov and Faibishenko. It was testified of Rokotov that he used to sit brazenly in a well-known restaurant with dollar bills piled by his plate; and that he left a prison camp (to which he had been sentenced for an earlier offense) richer by 200,000 rubles than he had made by buying pork from devout Moslem prisoners to sell to the other inmates.

Tunis. For years Habib Bourguiba has been known as the most reasonable, prudent and pro-Western of the Arab leaders. The outside world has consequently been stunned by his seeming irrationality in suddenly provoking the Bizerte crisis. (By his own admission, or boast, he started the shooting.) But as prospects look from here, his conduct makes sense. Bourguiba figures: 1) France is abandoning Africa so precipitately that her remaining positions may have crumbled by the end of the year. 2) With the French gone, the dominant power of the entire Maghreb (Morocco-Algeria-Tunisia) will be the FLN—15,000 of whose troops are *already* based in Tunisia. 3) In the past, French power has been, in paradoxical fact, the protector of Tunisia. With the collapse of French power, Bourguiba must seek a new protector. Provoking the Bizerte crisis makes possible the substitution of NATO, the UN, or a Communist-bloc shield. Bourguiba is ready to accept any of the three rather than the direct, bare confrontation of his brothers of the National Liberation Front.

Rabat, Morocco. U. S. Air Force and Naval officers stationed here smile wryly as they read the news from Bizerte. Their current job is the staged withdrawal from the bases on which the U. S. spent more than a billion dollars. No shooting was needed to force the Americans out: only the hint, two years ago, that they were no longer welcome, and that "the American image" would suffer if any objections were made. So far from resisting, indeed, the U. S. is paying, as it were, for the privilege of withdrawal. This spring, when the perennial Moroccan agricultural crisis worsened from bad weather and the first effects of reduced U. S. activity, Washington ponied up \$23 million worth of wheat and animal feed. Much more is expected to appear as Moroccan policy and a 300,000 yearly population increase continue to wreck the ill-balanced economy.



Tarentel Press

Essen, German Federal Republic. A new pamphlet ("What Does Willy Brandt Want?"), published by a group of Christian Democratic rightists calling themselves the "Rheinische Gruppe," fires a new salvo against West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt, Herr Adenauer's Social Democratic opponent for the chancellorship in the rapidly approaching election. It has been established that Brandt, who went into exile from the Nazi regime: a) was a journalist on the anti-Franco side during the Spanish Civil War; b) became a Norwegian citizen; c) fought in the Norwegian resistance against (Nazi) Germany; d) returned to Germany after the war as a Norwegian journalist; e) was associated with the Social Democratic brain-truster, Herbert Wehner, a former Communist widely suspected of retaining pro-Soviet links. The world accepts Brandt as the aggressive anti-Communist which his recent career seems to prove him to be. But inside Germany the earlier facts fuel a bitter personal campaign against him. The new pamphlet finds a parallel between his wartime actions and those of the East German leader, Walter Ulbricht: Ulbricht, too, fought as an emigré for the defeat of Germany and the victory, in half of Germany at least, of Communism. Should that make a man a German hero? Should a man with Herr Brandt's background lead West Germany in her greatest crisis?

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